

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**CT-746**  
**Old Field**  
**485 Main Street**  
**Prince Frederick, Calvert County**  
**c1889**  
**Private**

Built for John Parran Briscoe between 1889 and 1891, Old Field is an intact example of a Queen Anne-style residence in Calvert County. John Parran Briscoe, a Calvert County native, was elected to the office of State's Attorney, a position he held until 1890 when he accepted an appointment to the Maryland Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District. At the age of thirty-six, Judge Briscoe was the youngest man to serve on the Court of Appeals. In 1927, Old Field was acquired by Judge Briscoe's nephew, Dr. Everard Duke Briscoe, also a Calvert County native. Dr. Briscoe operated a walk-in medical clinic at Old Field from the late 1920s until his death in 1944. His widow, Harriett Elizabeth Worthington Briscoe, a noted local horticulturalist, historian and preservationist, lived at Old Field until her death in 1981.

The late-19<sup>th</sup>-century, wood-frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height, executed in the Queen Anne style with a large one-story modern kitchen addition on the rear. The main block of the dwelling has a stone-masonry foundation, while the front porch has a stretcher-bond brick foundation. The house is clad in lapped weatherboard and capped by a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. It has wide, overhanging eaves and a wood soffit with molded cornice. Windows throughout the buildings are 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmolded, unmitered wood surrounds, a projecting sill and lintel, and are flanked by louvered wood shutters. The three-bay facade is defined by a one-story, half-hipped roof porch on Tuscan columns and a projecting center gable with a tripartite window at the attic story. The house has three interior chimneys with corbeled caps. In addition to the historic dwelling there is a one-story, wood-frame corn crib dating to the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is located west of the house in an overgrown section of the rear yard.

Inventory No. CT-746

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic	Old Field
other	Briscoe House; Old Field Inn; Old Fields

## 2. Location

street and number	485 Main Street	not for publication
city, town	Prince Frederick	vicinity
county	Calvert	

**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Prince Frederick Assoc. LLC				
street and number	28095 Three Notch Road, Suite 1A			telephone	(301) 884-8133
city, town	Mechanicsville	state	MD	zip code	20659-3373

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse			tax map and parcel: 24:38		
city, town	Pr. Frederick	liber	KPS1851	folio	572

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

## 6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count	
						Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/>	public	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	commerce/trade	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	both	<input type="checkbox"/>	defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	site			<input type="checkbox"/>	domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	object			<input type="checkbox"/>	education		objects
				<input type="checkbox"/>	funerary	2	Total
				<input type="checkbox"/>	government		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	health care		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	industry		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	recreation/culture		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	religion		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	social		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	work in progress		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant/not in use		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	other:		
						<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	

## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Old Field is located on the west side of Main Street, south of the intersection with Duke Street, in the Calvert County seat of Prince Frederick. The late-nineteenth-century, wood-frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height and executed in the Queen Anne style with a large one-story modern kitchen addition on the rear. In addition to the historic dwelling there is a one-story wood-frame corn crib dating to the second quarter of the twentieth century. It is located west of the house in an overgrown section of the rear yard. The house is currently operated as a restaurant with dining on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor.

**SETTING.** The property known as Old Field is a Calvert County Historic District. The 6.6-acre tract is steeply sloping with the historic dwelling sitting back from the road and oriented northeast. The front, or northeast, portion of the tract is lightly wooded with patches of open grassy lawn while the rear, or southwest, portion of the tract is heavily wooded. The historic house occupies an area of high ground at the center of the tract, with the land behind it sloping steeply into a ravine. The house is approached by a winding paved drive, which leads from Main Street and circles in front of the house. The driveway continues past the north side of the house to the back where it opens into a larger parking area for several cars. A large parking lot is located north of the dwelling. Two retaining walls constructed of finished, square-cut logs reinforce the steep slope of the land on the south side of the parking lot. Evidence of historic landscaping in the yards south and east of the dwelling is evident, although plantings are overgrown. Mature shrubs line the foundation of the house.

**PRIMARY RESOURCE EXTERIOR.** Old Field is a two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame dwelling executed in the Queen Anne style with a large one-story kitchen addition on the rear. The main block of the dwelling has a stone-masonry foundation and the front porch a stretcher-bond brick foundation. The house is clad in lapped weatherboard and capped by a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. It has wide, overhanging eaves, a wood soffit with a molded cornice. An unornamented frieze board runs the perimeter of the original portion of the house. Windows throughout the buildings are largely 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmolded, unmitered wood surrounds, a projecting sill and lintel, and flanked by louvered wood shutters. Wood cornerboards are present. The house has three asymmetrically-located interior rectangular chimneys with corbeled caps. Plugged holes, used to blow-in insulation, pierce the siding on the northwest and southwest elevations on the second story.

The facade of the historic house faces Main Street and the paved driveway. It is three bays in width with a central projecting gable. A one-story, three-bay, single-pile, full-width porch supported on Tuscan wood columns with a half-hipped roof extends across the elevation. Groups of three columns set off the central bay of the porch, which projects like the central gable behind it. The porch is screened with wire mesh within a wooden frame. The interior of the porch is finished with flush hardwood strip flooring and slightly-convex wood strips sheathing the ceiling. The ceiling boards are laid in an ornamental vaulted pattern with molded ribs hiding the seams. The porch provides access to the symmetrical central entry. The wide wood door has two lights over two raised panels, and features a modern leaded-glass transom and modern leaded-glass sidelights over a raised panel on each side. The wood trim surrounding the entry is unmolded and unmitered like the window surrounds. The entry is flanked on each side by a tall window framed by louvered wood shutters. The windows are 2/2 wood-sash over jib doors. The second story of the facade features three evenly-spaced 2/2 wood-sash windows. The central gable features projecting eaves, a tripartite, round-arched window and a molded cornice. An off-center chimney extends above the roof on the south side of the central gable. This chimney has a corbeled set-back as well as a corbeled cap.

The southeast elevation of the historic dwelling reflects various alterations to the fenestration. The first story has two small 1/1 windows accommodating the women's restroom within. Beneath these windows is a small, one-story attached shed clad in German siding and displaying exposed cut rafter ends and wood cornerboards. The eastern bay is occupied by the one-story, half-hipped-roof dining room extension, which has one large 2/2 wood-sash window in the southeast elevation and no additional fenestration. The second story of the southeast elevation of the main block has a secondary entry with a single fifteen-light wood door accessed by a modern wood stair and sheltered by hood on wood posts. On the east side of the entry is a 2/2 wood-sash window. The attic story features a front-gabled dormer with two twelve-light wood casement windows, a molded wood surround and a heavily molded

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cornice. To west of the dormer is a brick chimney with a corbeled cap.

The rear, or southwest, elevation of the house is dominated by the one-story, L-shaped, gable-roof kitchen addition that completely obscures the first story of the original house. The kitchen addition is clad in vinyl with an asphalt-shingle roof. It has two 1/1 vinyl-sash windows in the southeast elevation, has a single modern door and a louvered vent at the gable end of the southwest elevation, and no fenestration on the northwest elevation. It has a projecting gable and eaves with a vinyl soffit. The addition extends north across the back of the house to include a shed-roof hyphen between the kitchen and the original doctor's office extension. The hyphen has a small fixed-sash window with modern stained translucent, opalescent glass. The second story of the rear elevation is three bays in width with central paired 2/2 wood-sash windows flanked by a single 2/2 wood-sash window on each side. A front-gabled dormer like that of the southeast elevation is present.

The northwest elevation of the house features a three-faceted bay window in the east bay of the first story with 4/4 wood-sash windows in each facet. The bay window has a molded cornice and a blank wood frieze board. The one-story extension originally used as a doctor's office is located at the west corner of the elevation and is linked to the rear kitchen addition through the aforementioned hyphen. The doctor's office was accessed through a secondary entry in the northeast elevation, which now features a modern door. The entry is sheltered by a single-bay porch on a turned wood column with scroll-sawn wood brackets. Additionally, the extension has a 2/2 wood-sash window in the northeast elevation, the northwest elevation, and paired 2/2 wood-sash windows on the rear addition. Between the bay window and the doctor's extension is a single 2/2 wood-sash window. The second story of the northwest elevation has two evenly-spaced 2/2 wood-sash windows. A large brick chimney with a corbeled setback and cap is centered on this elevation.

**PRIMARY RESOURCE INTERIOR.** The original plan of Old Field has been altered since the building was converted into a restaurant in 1984. As constructed, the building had a center stair hall flanked by two rooms on each side. The doctor's office was attached to the west corner of the house and was accessed through the northwest room. Since the building has been converted into a restaurant, the rear kitchen has been added and bathrooms built in the location of the original kitchen (the southwest room). The rear wall of the northwest room has been opened up to accommodate a bar. The stair case, as well, was moved from the north wall of the stair hall to the south wall and enlarged. The second floor has been radically altered to serve as an apartment and retains very little of the original configuration or finishings.

The most intact rooms in the dwelling are the stair hall, dining room and parlor on the first floor. These rooms retain much of their original finishings. Floors are hardwood strip, the walls are plaster with a dappled finish, and the ceilings are plaster with a smooth finish. Both the walls and the ceilings are painted. Window and door architraves are wood and have a square-edged backband, a convex center band set off by three grooves on each side, and a beaded interior band. The window aprons are derived from this basic molding with the addition of a bevel and ogee directly underneath a rounded sill. Doors have roundel corner blocks. The baseboard has a bevel and ogee molding. There is no crown molding. In all three major rooms on the first floor are marbleized slate mantelpieces with high-Victorian-era ornamentation.

The stair is open and has two flights. A long flight runs along the southeast wall to a mid-level landing, and then a short flight climbs along the southwest wall to a partially closed landing on the second floor. The balustrade features a robust, square wood newel post with molded roundels on each face over carved fluting and capped by a sphere. The turned, tapered balusters have a round plinth. The stringer is ornamented with vertical flat panels with framing molding. The three original entries to the flanking rooms each have two-light glazed transoms, and a plaster medallion is present on the ceiling. The entry to the bar has been enlarged and modern leaded-glass sidelights installed to match those of the front entry.

The parlor is accessed from the stair hall through large double-doors, each with eight raised panels framed by ovolo molding. The doors retain their original molded metal hinges. The parlor features a polygonal bay accessed through a wide arch supported on

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carved corbels, a molded picture rail, and a plaster medallion on the ceiling exhibiting a foliate pattern. The mantelpiece is marbleized slate painted black with red flecks and cream-colored inset marbleized slate panels. The mantelpiece has incised ornamentation, robust columns that support the shelf and a mirrored overmantel. A six raised-panel wood door with moldings similar to the parlor door leads to the dining room from the stair hall. The door retains the original hinges as well as the original knobs and escutcheons. The wood floor in the dining room is a replacement. The room features a built in cupboard adjacent to the fireplace, and built-in corner cupboards in the bay extension with their original doors but modern leaded-glass to match that used elsewhere in the house. The mantelpiece is also marbleized slate but the ornamentation is simpler reflecting the more intimate function of the room. A molded wood plate rail is present.

SECONDARY RESOURCE. A one-story, wood-frame corn crib dating to the second quarter of the 20th century and in poor condition is located west of the house in an overgrown section of the rear yard. The corn crib has a concrete-block pier foundation, is clad in flush vertical wood boards nailed with wire-cut nails, and has a front-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The door is located on the northeast elevation and is hinged with triangular metal hinges and a metal rim lock. The southwest portion of the corn crib is open just above the foundation for ventilation. Other notable elements include wire mesh lining the interior of the building, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and a wood box cornice.



## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts	
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philospohy	
X 1800-1899	X architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government	
X 1900-1999	art	entertainment/	landscape architecture	religion	
2000-	commerce	recreation	law	science	
	communications	ethnic heritage	literature	X social history	
	community planning	exploration/	maritime industry	transportation	
	conservation	settlement	military	other:	
Specific dates	1889; 1927		Architect/Builder	Unknown	
Construction dates	c1889; c1927				

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE.** Built for John Parran Briscoe between 1889 and 1891, Old Field is an intact example of a Queen Anne-style residence in Calvert County. John Parran Briscoe, a Calvert County native, was elected to the office of State's Attorney, a position he held until 1890 when he accepted an appointment by Maryland Governor Elihu Emory Jackson to the Maryland Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District. At the age of thirty-six, Briscoe, who became known as Judge Briscoe, was the youngest man to serve on the Court of Appeals. In 1927, the property was acquired by Judge Briscoe's nephew, Dr. Everard Duke Briscoe, also a Calvert County native. Dr. Briscoe established a walk-in medical clinic at Old Field that operated from the late 1920s until his untimely death in 1944. His widow, Harriett Elizabeth (Betty) Worthington Briscoe, a noted local horticulturalist, historian and preservationist, lived at Old Field until her death in 1981.

**HISTORY.** Old Field was originally constructed between 1889 and 1891 by John Parran Briscoe. Briscoe was born in Calvert County on August 24, 1853 to James Thompson Briscoe (b. 1829) and Annie Marie Parran Briscoe. (1) His father, James Thompson Briscoe, was a successful lawyer, politician and farmer who served as Maryland Secretary of State during the Governorship of William T. Hamilton from 1880 to 1884. (2) John Parran Briscoe attended Charlotte Hall School in St. Mary's County and St. John's College in Annapolis. As a young man, Briscoe was described as "a bright, manly boy, full of fun, vitality, and pluck." He initially practiced law in Baltimore and then relocated to Prince Frederick and practiced in southern Maryland. Briscoe married Kate McPherson Bowen (1859-1939), the daughter of Philander Adams Bowen and Rachel Ann Etheldra Morton Bowen, on November 26, 1879. (3) Briscoe was elected to the office of State's Attorney, a position he held until 1890 when he accepted an appointment by Maryland Governor Elihu Emory Jackson to the Maryland Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District. Briscoe, who became known as Judge Briscoe, was at the age of thirty-six the youngest man to serve on the Court of Appeals. John and Kate Briscoe had seven children, four boys and three girls, all of whom they raised in the house: John Parran Briscoe, Jr. (1880), Annie Etheldra Briscoe (Pye) (1882-1969), Katharine McPherson Briscoe (1883-1934), Lucy Lee Briscoe (Knox) (1886-1946), William Norwood Briscoe (1887-1953), Lawrence Morton Briscoe (b. 1889), and Philander Bowen Briscoe (b. 1892). (4)

By the late 1880s, the Briscoe's family had grown significantly, and John and Kate Briscoe sought a new house to accommodate them. A man of importance with a burgeoning career, Briscoe sought an imposing house in or near the town of Prince Frederick. In 1888 the mid-19th-century home of Henry Williams came up for auction. (5) Williams was an attorney and a statesman, serving in the House of Delegates during the Civil War and as State Senator from 1871-1874. (6) The property, known as Linden (CT-811), subsequently passed to Daniel Randall Magruder, who had also served in the House of Delegates and as Chief Justice of the Seventh Circuit Court until 1880. (7) It is no surprise that Briscoe submitted a bid for Linden in 1888, but was outbid by John B. Gray, Sr., a fellow lawyer, State's Attorney and President of the Maryland Bar Association in 1918. (8)

Instead, in 1889 the Briscoes acquired a 101-acre parcel at the south end of Prince Frederick once a portion of a much larger tract

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called Williams Old Field(s), on which the Calvert County Courthouse was constructed. (9) The Briscoes commissioned the construction of a new two-and-a-half-story dwelling to be executed in the fashionable Queen Anne style. The house, dubbed Old Field after the historic Williams tract, was completed in 1891 and was sited on the location of an existing log barn. (10) Hand-hewn logs from the barn were said to have been salvaged and reused in the construction of Old Field. (11) As originally constructed, Old Field was a center hall-plan dwelling with a central stair hall flanked on both sides by two rooms. The hall was wider at the southwest end to accommodate the stair, which was originally was located along the northwest and southwest walls. The Colonial Revival-style porch, similar to that at Linden, appears to be original and is illustrative of the early phase of style in Calvert County. Accounts of John Parran Briscoe's occupation of the house indicate that he had a library where he worked "late into the night on his opinions." The library was likely in the northwest chamber of the first floor, the current location of the restaurant bar and lounge. (12)

John Parran Briscoe served on the Maryland Court of Appeals from 1891 to 1924. During that time, he resided at Old Field with his wife and seven children. The house was the backdrop to Briscoe's distinguished legal career and functioned as an ideal location for the entertainment of family, friends and colleagues. Longtime friend of John Parran Briscoe, J. Allison Wilmer of Charles County, later recalled the "hospitable entertainment at his [Briscoe's] home near Prince Frederick presided over by his loyal, devoted, and lovely wife." In 1917 Briscoe was elected President of the Maryland Bar Association and President of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. He also served for a time as the editor and publisher of the Calvert Journal. Following Briscoe's death in 1925, Old Field stood vacant for two years until it and 6.6 acres were sold in 1927 to Briscoe's nephew, Everard Briscoe, for \$11,500. (13)

A native of Calvert County, Everard Duke Briscoe (1896-1944) was an established surgeon at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore when he acquired Old Field in Prince Frederick. Everard Briscoe was the son of Dr. Phillip Briscoe (b. 1855), John Parran Briscoe's younger brother. (14) His wife of four years was Harriett Elizabeth (Betty) Worthington Briscoe (1901-1981) of Hagerstown, Maryland. (15) According to Betty Briscoe, she and her husband relocated to Prince Frederick after receiving petitions from Calvert County residents, "both white and black," professing their need of a skilled surgeon and general physician and urging Briscoe to "walk in the footsteps of his father, the late Dr. Phillip Briscoe." (16) Dr. Briscoe was one of the first doctors in the county to establish a walk-in clinic with regular office hours. (17) To facilitate this, Briscoe built a one-room addition to the west corner of the house to serve as his examining room, and the library was converted into a waiting room. The addition had a separate exterior entrance from the rest of the house that provided access into the examining room and the waiting room. By the early 1970s, the west addition had been extended along the rear elevation of the house to provide a reception space opening onto the waiting room (now the restaurant bar) and a screened porch at the south corner accommodated in a one-story, single-pile, full-width projection. (18)

Everard Briscoe lived at Old Field with his wife and three children for 17 years until his unexpected death from a heart attack in 1944. (19) His widow, Betty Briscoe, continued to live at Old Field until her death in 1981. An accomplished woman in her own right, Betty Briscoe remained an active citizen in Calvert County throughout her life. Trained as a teacher at Maryland State Teacher's College, now Towson University, Briscoe was an avid horticulturalist and organized both the Calvert County Garden Club in 1936 and Prince Frederick Garden Club. (20) Photographs from Betty Briscoe's occupancy of Old Field show the parlor bay window full of various plants, particularly African violets, for which Briscoe had a particular fondness. (21) Briscoe taught in local schools after the death of her husband, and held a regular position from 1958 to 1968. She was also a preservationist, local historian and between 1954 and 1981 the author of the periodic column in the Calvert Independent "Know Your County," which spotlighted various historic structures in the county. She served as the chairman of the Maryland House and Garden Tour's Calvert County Pilgrimage and was active in the Maryland Historical Trust. Briscoe's preservationist sentiments led her to lament the trend of modern development in one of her columns and wonder "will 'Old Field' continue on another century (as it is so well built) or will it be another development as we see today being built." (22) Briscoe was a charter member of the Calvert County Historical Society, established in 1953, and a founder of the Calvert County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. During her occupancy, Old Field was filled with Worthington family heirlooms and "always open to guests who are treated with a formal

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welcoming reminiscent of another age." (23) Betty Briscoe died in 1981.

The Old Field property was acquired by the Wolchick family in 1981. The historic house was renovated as a restaurant on the first floor with living quarters above. (24) As part of the renovations, the principal stair was relocated from the northwest to the southwest wall of the hall, the original library/waiting room partition was removed and the room enlarged, and a one-story kitchen addition was constructed onto the rear. The second floor was converted into a modern apartment. Minor alterations to the house include the replacement of the dining room floor and the replacement of the original built-in cupboard glazing and central entry sidelight and transom glazing with modern leaded-glass. The renovated property opened as The Old Field Inn on Election Day in 1984. (25) Under new ownership since May 2003, the property continues to operate as a restaurant under the proprietorship of Brendan and Ashley Cahill.

### ENDNOTES

(1) Annie Etheldra Briscoe Pye, "Judge John Parran Briscoe," Calvert Journal, date unknown. This article is contained within the Old Field vertical file at the Calvert County Historical Society in Prince Frederick, MD. Unless otherwise indicated, biographical information on John Parran Briscoe is derived from this article. All birth and death dates included within this article come from the various bibliographic sources, the United States Federal Census, and photographs on display in the Old Field Inn. Note that in many cases the dates given in the various sources differ by as many as four years. In general, death dates are more accurate than birth dates.

(2) United States Federal Census, 1870. J. T. Briscoe is shown as having \$20,000 in real estate and \$2,500 in personal property, placing him in the upper-middle class.

(3) Pye states that Kate McPherson Bowen was the daughter of "Philander Adams Bowen and his wife, Rachel Ann Etheldra (Morton) Bowen, of 'Woodley,' the beautiful and famous estate on Woodley Road, Washington D.C." Pye is referring to Woodley, a Federal-style dwelling on Cathedral Avenue in Woodley Park built by Philip Barton Key in 1803 and now the location of the Maret School in northwest Washington, D.C. Woodley has been home to United States Presidents, Secretaries of War, and General George Patton. Pye indicates that the Bowens lived in Woodley prior to the Civil War. Pye also indicates that Rachel Ann Etheldra Morton Bowen was the daughter of William Morton of Holland Point on the Patuxent River in Calvert County, and that the Morton family was also associated with Stoakley on the south side of Hunting Creek in Calvert County.

(4) United States Federal Census, 1900, 1910.

(5) Christy S. Comer, "A History of Old Field Inn, Prince Frederick, Maryland," unpublished paper submitted to the faculty at Mary Washington College, July 29, 1988.

(6) "Linden," website of the Calvert County Historical Society on the World Wide Web at <http://www.calverthistory.org/> on December 16, 2003.

(7) "Linden."

(8) Comer.

(9) Comer; and Liber JS 2, Folio 92, Land Records of Calvert County, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.



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- (10) Comer; and Betty Briscoe, "Know Your County: Time Makes Changes," Calvert Independent, date unknown.
- (11) Briscoe. Massive hand-hewn sills and floor joists are visible in the basement of Old Field. The presence of mortises in non-functional locations in these structural members supports the theory of reuse.
- (12) Since the conversion of Old Field to a restaurant in 1984, the stair has since been widened and moved to the opposite wall. The original partition wall of the library has been removed and the room enlarged to accommodate the lounge.
- (13) Comer; and Liber AAH 19, Folio 116, Land Records of Calvert County, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD. Several sources indicate that Briscoe moved his family to Baltimore in 1925 prior to his death which may explain why the house was vacant for two years. A photographic portrait of Briscoe in his judiciary robes is found in Henry Fletcher Powell, Tercentenary History of Maryland, vol. 4 (Baltimore: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925) p. 369.
- (14) Briscoe.
- (15) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975," Calvert Independent, 8 October 1975, 1-2.
- (16) Briscoe.
- (17) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975."
- (18) Documentary photograph, c1970. Old Field vertical file at the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince, Frederick, MD. Other documentary photographs show a one-and-a-half-story wood-frame building on the property that appears to be a garage. The building was located directly behind and slightly down the hill from the house.
- (19) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975." A letter from Annette Wilfong, niece of Dr. I.N. King, included in the Old Field vertical file at the Calvert County Historical Society states that Dr. King was the attending physician at Everard Briscoe's death from a drug overdose.
- (20) "The History of Old Field," anonymous house history in the Old Field vertical file of the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
- (21) Biographical information on Betty Briscoe is derived from the following sources: Robert G. Breen, "Victorian Atmosphere Retained," Baltimore Sun, 19 July 1956; "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975;" "The History of Old Field;" and Comer.
- (22) Briscoe.
- (23) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975."
- (24) Liber ABE 280, Folio 636, Land Records of Calvert County, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.
- (25) Comer.

CHAIN OF TITLE

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May 16, 2003

Land Records of Calvert County

Liber KPS 1851, Folio 572

The Old Field Inn, Inc. to Prince Frederick Assoc., LLC

6.6 acres

June 7, 1984

Land Records of Calvert County

Liber ABE 319, Folio 159

Eileen O'Donnell Wolchick et al to The Old Field Inn, Inc.

6.6 acres

December 3, 1981

Land Records of Calvert County

Liber ABE 280, Folio 636

Everard D. Briscoe and Elizabeth B. Bacot to Eileen O'Donnell Wolchick et al

6.6 acres

November 9, 1973

Land Records of Calvert County

Liber JLB 164, Folio 116

Elizabeth W. Briscoe to Elizabeth W. Briscoe et al

6.6 acres

December 15, 1927

Land Records of Calvert County

Liber AAH 19, Folio 116

Kate M. Briscoe to Everard Briscoe

6.6 acres

April 30, 1889

Land Records of Calvert County

Liber JS 2, Folio 92

J. Briscoe Bunting to Kate M. Briscoe

101 acres

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. CT-746

See continuation sheet.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property 6.60

Acreage of historical setting 101

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic house is located at 485 Main Street in Prince Frederick, Calvert County, Maryland. It has been associated with Tax Map 24, Parcel 38 since its construction in the late 19th century. The current deed to the property is found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Liber KPS 1851, Liber 572.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Carrie E. Albee, Architectural Historian

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date 11/19/2003

street and number 1121 5th Street NW

telephone (202) 393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-746

Name Old Field

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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"Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975." Calvert Independent. October 8, 1975.

Breen, Robert G. "Victorian Atmosphere Retained." Baltimore Sun. July 19, 1956.

Briscoe, Betty. "Know Your County: Time Makes Changes." Calvert Independent. Date unknown.

Comer, Christy S. "A History of Old Field Inn, Prince Frederick, Maryland," unpublished paper submitted to the faculty at Mary Washington College. July 29, 1988.

Land Records of Calvert County. Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.

"Linden." Website of the Calvert County Historical Society. On the World Wide Web at <http://www.calverthistory.org/>. December 16, 2003.

Miscellaneous documents. Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

Powell, Henry Fletcher. Tercentenary History of Maryland, vol. 4. Baltimore: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925.

Pye, Annie Etheldra Briscoe. "Judge John Parran Briscoe." Calvert Journal, date unknown.

United States Federal Census, 1870, 1900, 1910.



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

CT-746 OLD FIELD

485 MAIN STREET

PRINCE FREDERICK, CALVERT COUNTY

NOVEMBER 19, 2003

ocean

400

410

420

CORN  
CRIB

ocean

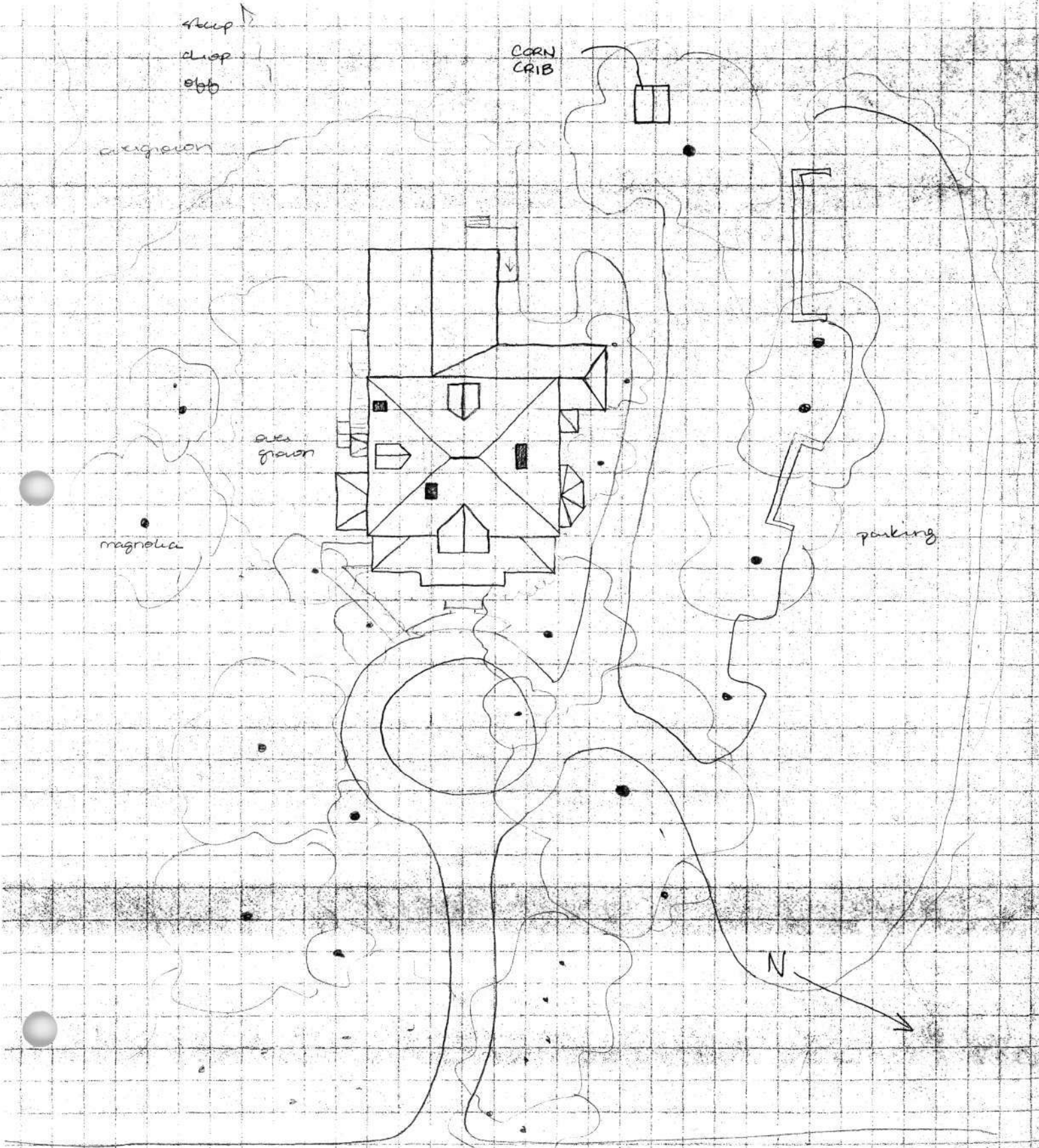
ocean  
grown

magnolia

parking

N

MAIN STREET



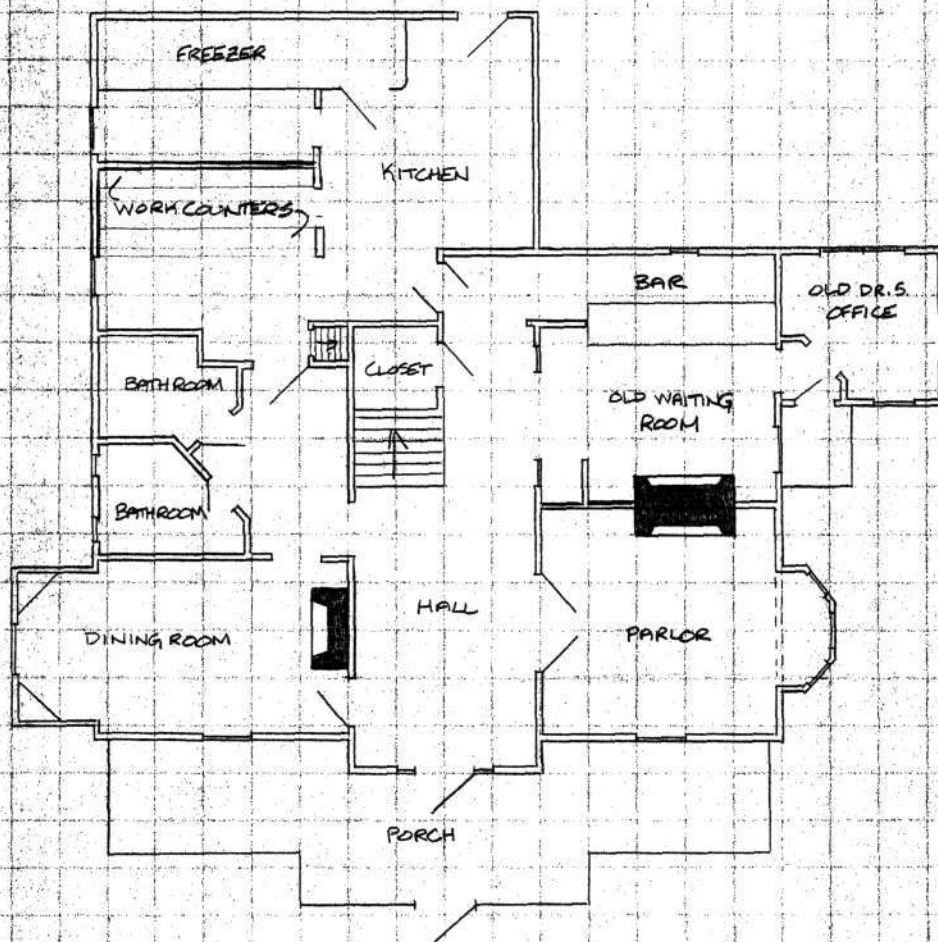
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

CT-746 OLD FIELD

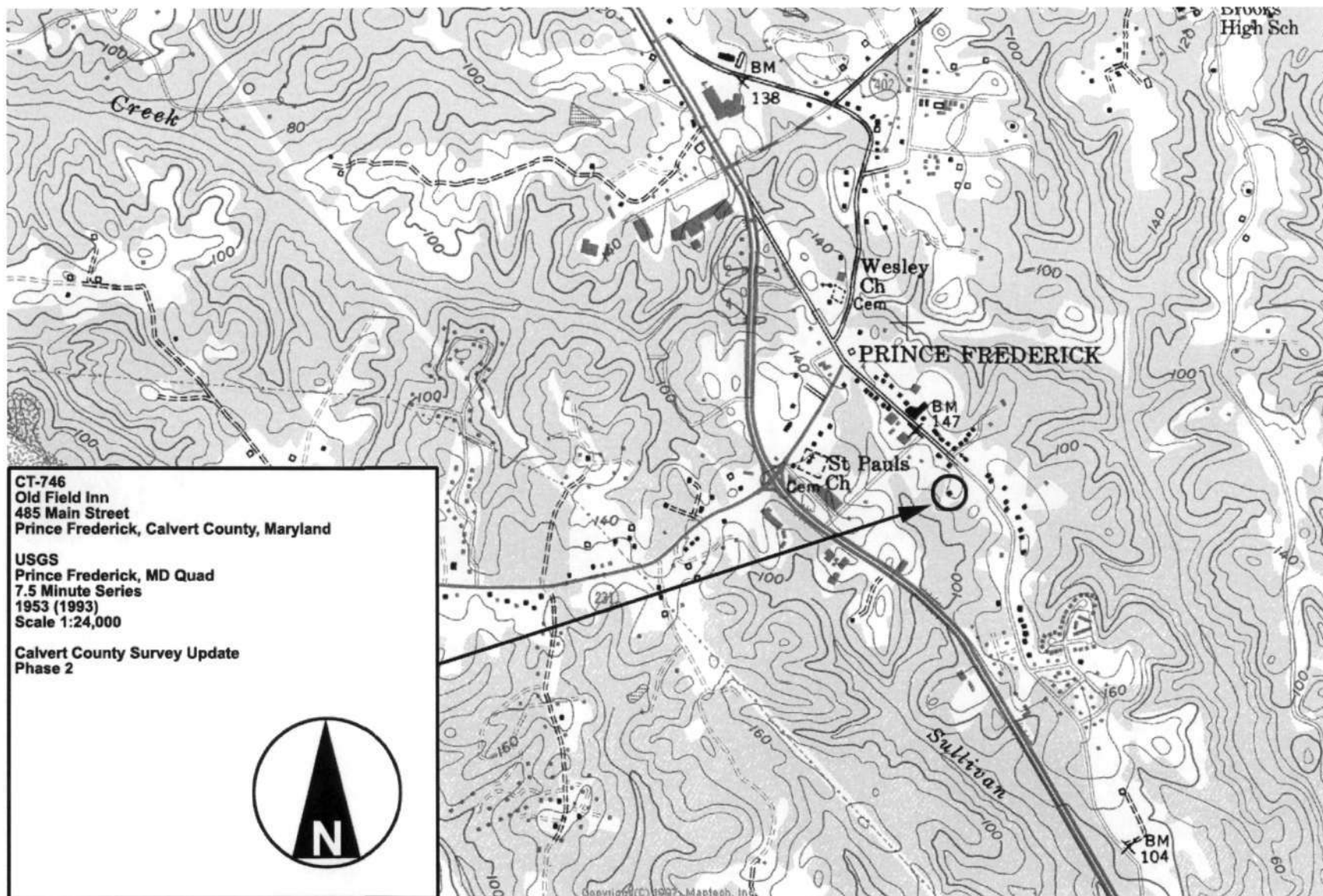
485 MAIN STREET

PRINCE FREDERICK, CALVERT COUNTY

NOVEMBER 19, 2003



CT-746









CT-746

Old field, 485 Main Street  
Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

Northeast Elevation

1 of 14



CT-7416

Old Field, 485 Main Street  
Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

Northeast Elevation

2 of 14





CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

Southeast Elevation

3 of 14



CT-7416

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

Southwest Elevation

4 OF 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MP SHPS

Northwest elevation

5 of 14





CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

View South

6 of 14



CT-746

Old field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

View Northwest, Porch

7 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

View Southwest, Hall

8 of 14





CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

view Northeast, Hall

9 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

View Southeast, Dining Room

10 of 14



CT-746  
Oldfield, 485 Main Street  
Calvert County, MD  
EHT Tracerics  
November 2003  
MD SHPO  
View Northwest, Parlor  
11 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

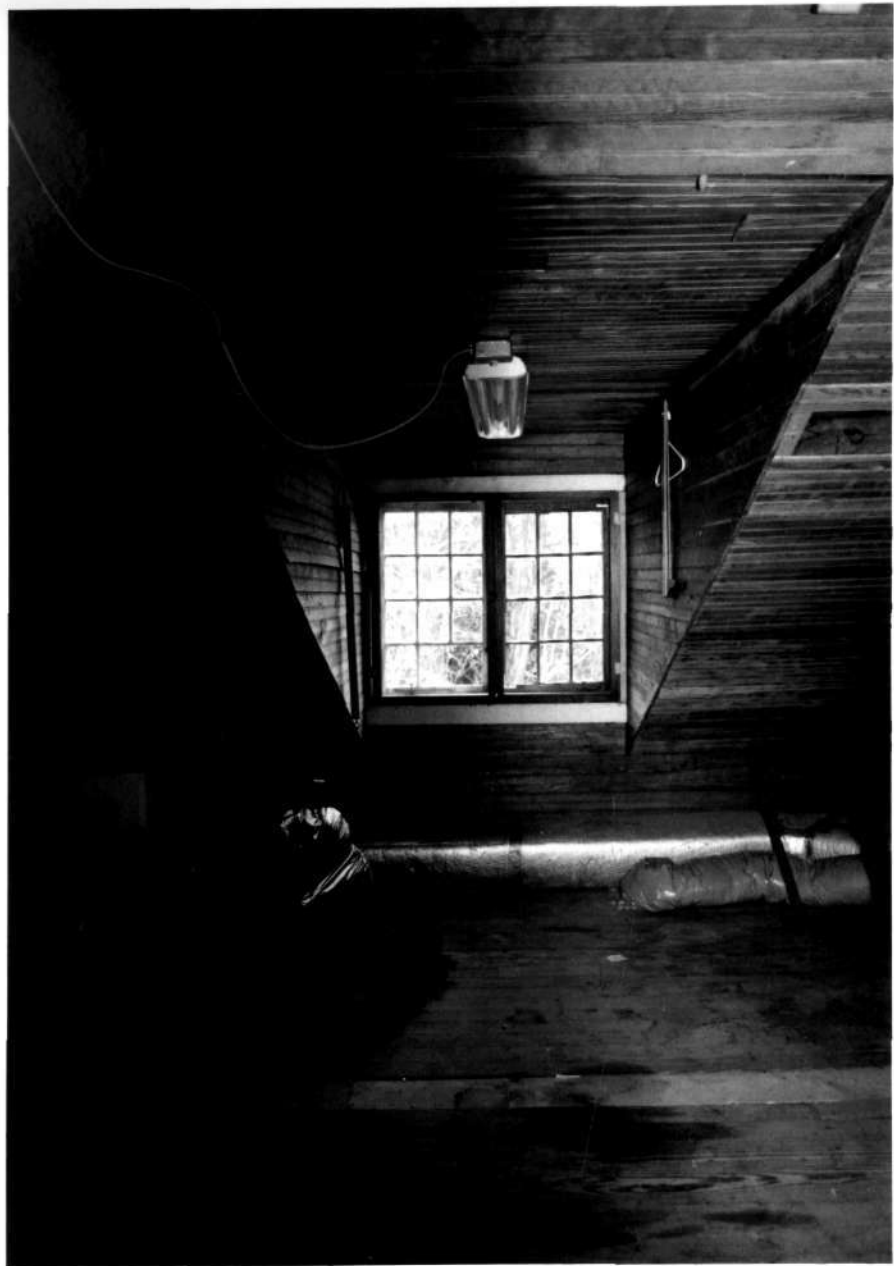
November 2003

MD SHPO

Attic, view Northeast

12 of 14





CT- 746

Old Field . 485 main street

Calvert County , MD

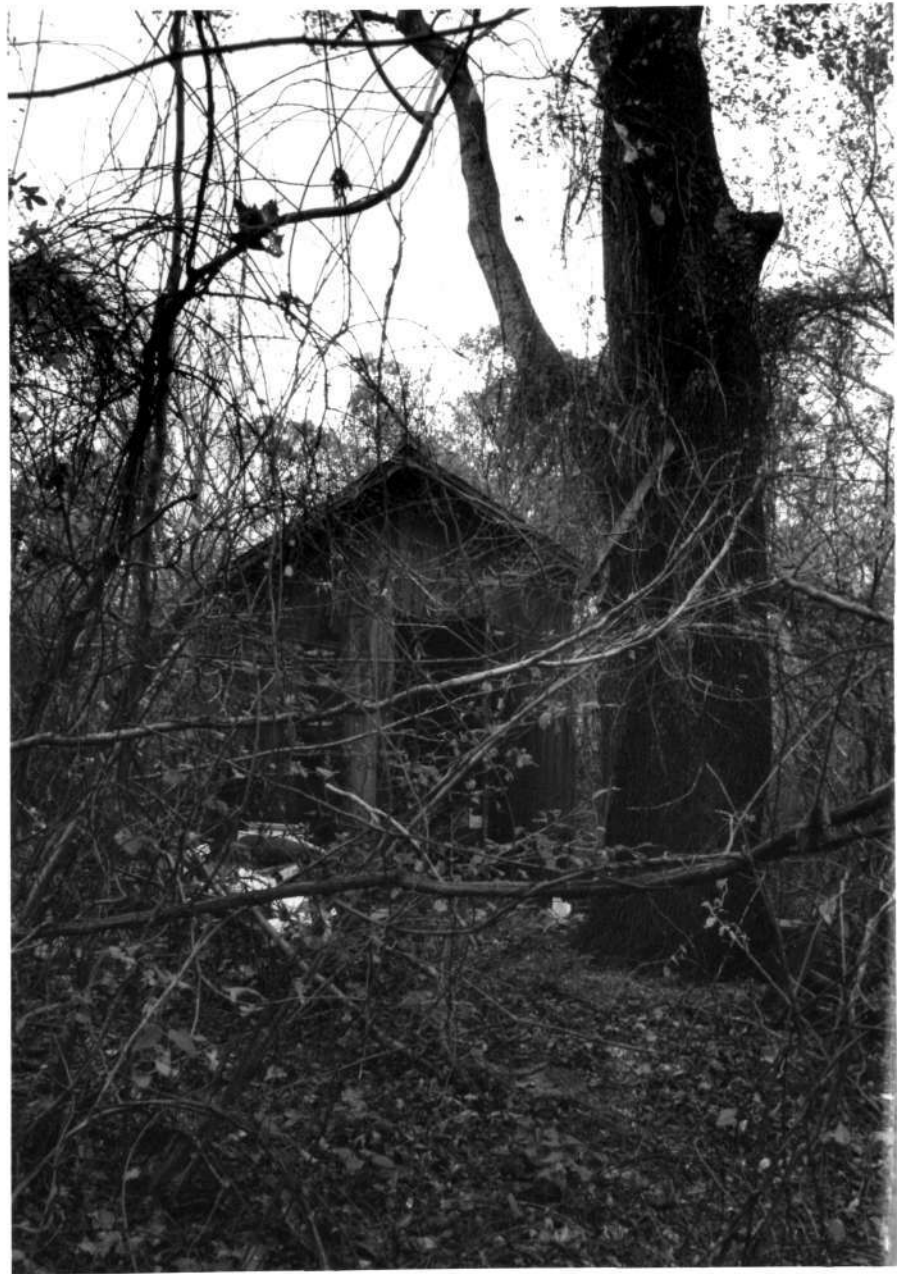
EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

Athic. view Southeast

13 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

view southwest, corn crib

14 of 14

CT-746  
OLD FIELD  
(Late 19th Century)  
Prince Frederick  
Private

This two-story frame house faces east. The hip-roofed structure includes a three-story gabled entrance tower on its three-bay facade. A small palladian window lights the tower's third story. A porch supported by tapered columns crosses the facade.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Briscoe House, Old Fieldand/or common Old Field Inn

## 2. Location

street & number (Maryland Route 765) Main Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Prince Frederick ☐ vicinity of congressional districtstate Maryland county Calvert

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Old Feild Inn, Inc.street & number SR Box 203 telephone no.:city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code Maryland 20678

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liberstreet & number Main Street (MD 765) foliocity, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. CT-746

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This house is set back onto a wooded lawn off Maryland Route 765. It faces east. Set on a stone foundation, it is a two-story double-pile framed and weatherboarded house with a steep hipped roof and a central-passage plan. The three-bay facade has an advanced central bay set under a front-facing gable. The brick chimneys are set along the partition walls of the house. The original windows have four-over-four double-hung sash. The facade is sheltered by a one-story screened-in porch with a hipped roof. The advanced central bay of the porch is supported by Doric columns. There is a one-story polygonal bay on the north end wall. A one-story, single-bay square-plan flat-roofed wing has been added to the south end wall. Several one-story ells and sheds have also been built onto the rear of the house. There are no surviving original outbuildings.



## 8. Significance

Survey No. CT-746

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

According to local tradition, this house was built by a man who had originally intended to buy and remodel Linden, but the Gray family acquired that house first. This house was indeed built at about the time that Linden was remodeled.

Directed historical research would more firmly establish the historical significance of this site.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-746

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Wells

organization MHT/Calvert Dept. of Planning &amp; Zoning date 9/30/86

street &amp; number Courthouse Annex, Main St. telephone (301) 535-2348

city or town Prince Frederick state Maryland 20678

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-746  
MAGI

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Field

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 765

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

#### PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elizabeth W. Briscoe

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

SAME

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County

Liber #: 164

Folio #: 116

STREET & NUMBER

Route 765

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CT-746

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story frame house faces east. The hip-roofed structure includes a three-story gabled entrance tower on its three-bay facade. A small palladian window lights the tower's third story. A porch supported by tapered columns crosses the facade.

Two over two windows flanked by louvered shutters light the house. A brick chimney heats the south end.

Asphalt shingles cover the roof, and weatherboards cover the walls.

This well-preserved house is set in beautiful grounds shaded by mature trees.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

---

SPECIFIC DATES      late 19th century      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the finest dwellings in Prince Frederick. It was long the home of local historian and pioneer preservationist Betty Briscoe.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

May, 1980

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 107

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dunkirk

STATE

MD

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Solomons Island Rd. South

PRINCE FREDERICK  
CALVERT COUNTY MAP #29  
ENLARGEMENT 3 of 3

CT-746





Ct-746 Old Field Inn  
Highway 765  
Prince Frederick

Camille Wells 9/86  
view from the east